

December 7, 1999

Donna Shalala, Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

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Dear Secretary Shalala:

This is to express my concern about the potential for weakening of labeling requirements for irradiated food that is being considered by the Food and Drug Administration. I strongly believe that it is my right to know if the food I eat has been treated with radiation.

As you no doubt know, food products undergo chemical changes after exposure to radioactive isotopes. These cosmetic and nutritional changes in foods warrant disclosure on a prominent place on the package. Additionally, food that is not always packaged (such as fruits and vegetables) should always be accompanied by a poster in plain view of where the product is displayed for sale. Labels are required by law to be truthful and not misleading to the customer. Only clear, honest and permanent labeling is acceptable for irradiated foods.

I hope and trust that you will defend the consumer's right to know in this important decision-making process. I shall look forward to hearing from you what is being done by you and your department in regards to this issue of the right to know how our food is handled before we eat it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

M. Michael Maloney

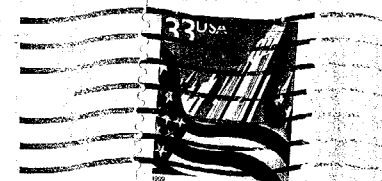
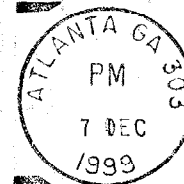
4132 Admiral Way
Chamblee, GA 30341-1518.

P.S.: I've enclosed a stamped, self-addressed envelop for you to use in reporting back to me – hope it makes getting back a little easier and quicker.

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Amy and Michael Maloney
4132 Admiral Way
Chamblee, GA, 30341-1518



Honorable Donna Shalala
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C.

